

21st Legislative District Survey 2001



**Representative
Mike Cooper**

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Mike Cooper**

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(Vice chair)
Technology,
Telecommunications

November 2001

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I'm proud of how our local communities are responding to the September 11 attack on America and the anthrax scare. I'm seeing more unity and public spirit than I've seen in a long, long time.

But we all know we still face challenges ahead. What can we do to strengthen public safety in the light of new threats? How can we help Boeing workers and others who are being hurt by the temporary downturn in our economy? How can we get solutions to gridlock back on track, so that we don't lose even more jobs and more family time to traffic congestion?

The recent crisis and the economic slowdown haven't changed our values or our need to work for public safety, better schools, good job opportunities or mobility, but they do require fresh thinking about priorities and solutions.

Everyone has a stake in these and other challenges, and everyone deserves a say in how we address them. You can help me to speak for you when key state decisions are made by taking a few moments to answer this legislative survey.

As always, please let me know if you have any ideas about what government should or shouldn't be doing. And if you're having a problem dealing with a state agency or requirement, let me know that, too. My legislative assistant and I will do our best to help.

Let's keep in touch!

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mike Cooper".

Mike Cooper
State Representative, 21st District



What are your priorities?

■ The September 11 attack and Boeing layoffs are making the economic downturn worse than experts had expected. As a result, we face a state budget shortfall of up to one billion dollars. Clearly, we must revise the budget and prioritize our spending. Please tell me your priorities by ranking the following from 1 to 6 in order of importance, with "1" being the most important:

___ Education	___ Higher education
___ Public safety	___ Environment
___ Transportation	___ Social & health services
___ Other _____	

■ Gov. Locke says human services funding may need to be cut by 15 percent due to the budget shortfall. We'll do everything possible to squeeze value from limited dollars and preserve direct services to people, but some services must be reduced. Please rank the following services from 1 to 6 in terms of their importance to our state, with "1" being the most important.

___ Long-term care for seniors and people with disabilities
___ Drug and alcohol treatment
___ Foster care
___ Children's health care
___ Adult health care
___ Aid to families with dependent children
___ Other _____

Responding to Boeing layoffs

■ Thousands of Boeing workers who have been a mainstay of our community and economy are now facing layoffs. I'm urging Congress to help laid-off Boeing workers just as it is helping airlines during this crisis. There's no excuse for unequal treatment. But if Congress fails to act, the responsibility to help will be left to our state. How should we respond?

Offer more job-retraining opportunities at community colleges.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Extend unemployment benefits for Boeing workers.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Provide tax incentives to help Boeing retain more workers.

☐ Yes ☐ No

___ Other _____

Protecting public safety

■ The terrorist attacks have created public safety issues that seemed unimaginable a few months ago. While we won't be panicked or intimidated by possible threats, we do need to think about how we can make our communities and way of life more secure. Do you think the following steps should be taken?

Provide bioterrorism/anthrax equipment and training for police and firefighters.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Increase protections for our water supply.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Provide anti-terrorism training to police.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Provide additional security in and around airports.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Other _____

■ The crime of committing a bioterrorism hoax is punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine. But anthrax hoaxes continue to scare people while imposing huge emergency-response costs. Should the punishment for bioterrorism hoaxes be increased?

☐ Yes ☐ No

■ Should the details of emergency-response planning be exempt from state open-meetings laws, to prevent terrorists from discovering possible vulnerabilities?

☐ Yes ☐ No



Erik Olson, IAFF Local 451, Centralia Fire Fighters. Photo by Toni Bailey, Centralia Chronicle.

Transportation

■ Legislators are considering a 'Get Washington Moving' plan to fix transportation problems that are robbing time from families and hurting our economy. For about \$12 a month per person, mainly from a 9-cent gas-tax hike phased in over three years, this plan would:

- Invest \$6 billion in highway improvement.
- Finish the HOV system.
- Add nearly \$1 billion in public transit.
- Add new passenger and freight rail.
- Replace four outdated auto ferries and buy three new passenger only ferries.
- Build \$100 million worth of park & rides.

Would you support this plan?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Comment _____

■ What features do you want to see in a state transportation plan?

Any new revenues raised in a county should be spent in that county.

☐ Yes ☐ No

All new transportation funds should go to road construction.

☐ Yes ☐ No

HOV lanes should be a major part of the transportation plan.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Trains and other mass transit should be part of the plan.

☐ Yes ☐ No

■ Our community was evenly split last year on whether a statewide transportation funding plan should require a public vote. A year has passed with no solution. How do you feel now about a public vote? (Check one)

____ The Legislature should pass a transportation funding plan quickly without a public vote.

____ A public vote should be required before a transportation funding plan is adopted.



Making schools even stronger

■ People voted overwhelmingly last year to improve education by investing more in Washington's teachers and schools. To achieve higher standards of learning, we also need better ways to hold schools accountable for results. What approaches to strengthening accountability do you support?

Reward schools that achieve academic excellence.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Penalize schools that fail to achieve good results.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Replace administrators in low-performing schools.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Allow parents to send their kids to different schools.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please use the back side for your comments and suggestions. Please refold, stamp and mail to:

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place
stamp
here



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